GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1649
ANSWERED ON:06.03.2006
INDUSTRIAL WORKERS UNDER EPF
Singh Shri Ganesh

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether only 10% of the industrial workers of Madhya Pradesh are getting the benefit of Employees Provident Fund;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the details of the policy of the Government for providing cent per cent benefit of the labour laws to the workers;

(d) whether the Government is aware of the activities of the unscrupulous elements in the EPFO offices; and

(e) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to curb the activities of the agents to prevent the exploitation of the workers?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR & EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU)

(a) & (b):The Employees` Provident Funds & Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952, subject to provisions of Section 16 of the Act, is applicable to every establishment which is a factory engaged in any industry specified in Schedule I of the Act or any other establishment notified by the Government and employing 20 or more persons. As on 31.03.2005, there were 14,42,911 members of the Fund in Madhya Pradesh region.

(c): The Act is being enforced in accordance with the provisions contained therein.

(d): Yes, Sir. Two cases pertaining to closed establishments at Sub-Regional Office, Gwalior were detected.

During 2003 a fraud involving an amount of Rs. 27.98 lakh in respect of M/s. Sound Zweirdad Union India (P) Ltd. was found to have been committed by certain outsiders with the help of officials of the Organization.

In another case detected during the year 2004, an amount of Rs. 1.98 lakh was found to have been fraudulently withdrawn in respect of M/s. Bharat Foundry Works.

(e): Both the cases were referred to the CBI for detailed investigations as certain outsiders were involved.

The project, 'Re-inventing EPF India' is designed to bring more transparency, audit trial, etc. to curb such unscrupulous activities.